

What is Claimed is:

1. A notebook computer with an input/output (I/O) physical user interface comprising:

a base containing a keyboard for said notebook computer, wherein said base has an extended portion beyond said keyboard creating a widened keyboard base;

a widened display, said widened display having a widened I/O display area corresponding to said widened keyboard base, said widened display having a width substantially equal to a width of said widened keyboard base;

an I/O device area disposed within said extended portion of said widened keyboard base; and

an interface signal connection means mounted within said I/O device area, said interface signal connection means operable to couple signals from said notebook computer to an I/O device.

1 2. The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device area is recessed
2 below a surface of said I/O device area, said recessed I/O device area operable to
3 receive said I/O device.

1 3. The notebook computer of claim 2, wherein said interface signal connection
2 means is disposed within said recessed I/O device area.

1 4. The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein an interface connection interposer
2 is disposed between said interface signal connection means and said I/O device.

1 5. The notebook computer of claim 4, wherein said interface connection
2 interposer is disposed within said recessed I/O device area.

1 6. The notebook computer of claim 4, wherein said interface connection
2 interposer is operable to compensate for both mechanical and signal routing
3 differences between said universal connection means, said recessed I/O area and said
4 I/O device.

1 7. The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said widened I/O display area is
2 used to display operational data relative to operation of said I/O device when said I/O
3 device is sending or receiving signals to said notebook computer.

1 8. The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said notebook computer is
2 operable to execute first communication software instructions, said first
3 communication software instructions controlling communication between said
4 notebook computer and said I/O device.

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1 11. A method of interfacing a I/O device to a notebook computer, comprising the
2 steps of:

3 providing said notebook computer with a widened display and a
4 widened keyboard base, said widened keyboard base having an I/O
5 device area;

6 providing a signal connection means within said I/O device area;

7 coupling signals from said I/O device to I/O circuitry in said notebook
8 computer, said I/O circuitry operable to couple signals from said I/O
9 device to a central processing unit (CPU) in said notebook computer;

10 activating communication software, said communication software
11 operable to control communication between said CPU and said I/O
12 device; and

13 activating display software, said display software operable to execute
14 instructions directing the display of input or output data relevant to
15 said I/O device in a widened portion of said widened display.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of operating said
2 notebook computer and said I/O device together in response to user commands
3 entered via said notebook computer or via said I/O device.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said widened display has a width
2 substantially equal to a width of said widened keyboard base.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein said I/O device has functionality wholly
2 separate from any communication signaling or connection with said notebook
3 computer.

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